

Weston Collegiate Alumni News

2013 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Well it seems another year has flown by and the 2012/13 is quickly coming to an end. I would like to congratulate this year's graduates and wish them all well in their future endeavors. I would also like to congratulate this year's Martini Award winners, **Ms. Sebat Mohamed** and **Mr. Usman Ali**. Each will receive a plaque and a small bursary.*

*We have added to the long list of Order of Canada, **Marian (Aitchison) Packham**, please see the article on page 8 of the newsletter.*

Last October we had our first official "Pub Nite" during a cold, wet rainy day, celebrating Weston Collegiate's 155th anniversary. From all accounts, the over 200 brave souls that attended had quite a lot of fun, food and drink. Thank you to Grandpa Ken's BBQ and to Steve Turton for being our MC and DJ for the afternoon. We managed to raise a larger than expected amount of money to be given back to the school and various school activities. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 160th!

I am pretty sure that your executive board will be working just as hard in the coming school year with fundraising events, meetings and networking to make 2013/2014 even more exciting for the students and faculty of Weston Collegiate. If you would like to donate 1 evening every 2 months of your time or be part of an Alumni committee(s), please forward an email to info@westonalumni.com.

I truly hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to the fall time when we return.

Manu Cordeque

Sincerely,



Peter W. Fritsch
President, Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation

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EDITOR'S NOTES

If you would like to contribute your articles of your experiences from any decade at WCI or help the students of WCI, please send an email to info@westonalumni.com. We could also use your expertise with being a webpage editor or helping to update the email database.

Please note that all articles have been printed as submitted by the authors.

TRIBUTES

Mary-Jean (Kennedy) Rumball, R.N. (1933 – 2012)

by Derek Rumball

Mary-Jean Kennedy grew up at 144 Church St. in Weston and attended Memorial Public School from which she graduated in 1947. Subsequently, she graduated from Weston Collegiate & Vocational School in 1952 and from the Wellesley School of Nursing in 1955. Her life was well centered in the Weston area and well rooted in Pelmo Park and Weston Baptist Church. Mary-Jean was a woman of great faith in the God she served.



*Picture is courtesy
of Your Life
Moments*

To her mother's horror, Mary-Jean hopped on the back of a young Ottawa Roughrider's Harley Davidson and eventually married the Reverend Robert Rumball in 1955. Her life of service to others began and was evident to the last days and hours of her life.

She was an integral part of the Ministry of the Evangelical Church of the Deaf. Robert and Mary-Jean began their ministry to the Deaf at 56 Wellesley St. in downtown Toronto. She provided far more than what the traditional role of a Minister's wife would be. She became the caregiver to those in need, the mother to those without, the shoulder for someone to cry on when there was no shoulder to be found.

In 1977 the family moved to rural Caledon where Mary-Jean became the ultimate Hockey mom. Her home became home to many disadvantaged folks who just needed someone to reach out and care. She was a fixture in the Church's summer Bible camp program in Parry Sound and was there every summer since the Camp's beginning in 1961. The camp served

the deaf and special needs community she had served so faithfully.

Mary-Jean is survived by her husband of over 55 years, Reverend Robert Rumball, their seven children*, 18 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and her brother, Dr. James Kennedy. She was pre-deceased by her parents and her younger brother Dr. Donald Kennedy. Like Mary-Jean, Doctors James and Donald Kennedy are alumni of Memorial Public School and Weston Collegiate & Vocational School.

Mary-Jean's last hours were spent with those she loved, her family and her community family. She had dinner with the kids and special needs adults at camp, told everyone she loved them and never saw the next morning. A brain aneurism took her without warning or cause for concern on August 3, 2012.

Right down to the last moments Mary-Jean can be captured in one sentence,

“Everything that beautiful is supposed to be.”

**Editorial Comments by Orlando Martini:*

Mary-Jean and Rob. Rumball had five children of their own – Brent, Dale (a daughter) Brenda, Derek and Janine. A few years after Janine was born, the Rumballs adopted a hearing-impaired, three-year old from Korea named Sanja. A few years later, a hearing-impaired, Canadian five-year old named Rosie entered the Rumball household as their seventh child. Mindful of the foregoing, one certainly has to admire Mary-Jean's and Rob's selfless and total dedication to the deaf community.

Ralph W. Shaw M.D., F.R.C.P(C)
(1935-2013)

by Ralph's Children, Susan, Laura and Andrew

Dr. Ralph Shaw was born in the High Park area of Toronto where his father was the projectionist at the Brighton Theatre on Roncesvalles Avenue. When Ralph was nine, the family moved to the Maple Leaf area of the Township of North York which at that time was one of the Weston “suburbs”. An excellent student, Ralph graduated with honours from Weston Collegiate & Vocational School (WCVS) in 1952 at the age of 16. He then completed all of his post-secondary education at the University of Toronto, including a B.A., Honours Science, in 1958; an M.A., Physiology and Biochemistry, in 1962; and an M.D. in 1964. Years of further specialized studies led to a long and distinguished career as a general pathologist at the North York General Hospital (NYGH). During this period, Ralph held a number of leadership roles, including President of the Ontario Association of Pathologists and President of the NYGH Medical Staff Association. Ralph “retired” in 2004 from NYGH, but continued to work as a locum pathologist at NYGH and Humber River Regional Hospital up to and including the day of his death. One of Ralph’s lasting legacies to his family and colleagues is an incomparable work ethic. In a career that spanned some 43 years, Ralph only took one sick day.

Ralph was a life-long sports fan and an avid lover of the arts. His support of Toronto’s sports teams, in particular the trials and tribulations of the “hockey” Leafs (a phrase that he used consistently to acknowledge his support during his youth for the Toronto Maple Leafs baseball team), was unwavering. In addition, he enjoyed attending productions of the Canadian Opera Company (COC) to such an extent that he engineered his own operatic debut in the COC’s 2007-2008 production of *The House of the Dead* as a supernumerary.

Many Toronto institutions and charities were the beneficiaries of Ralph’s generosity and kindness. The North York General Hospital Foundation was the primary recipient. In addition, he supported the COC, the University of Toronto and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church.

Dr. Shaw passed away suddenly on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 after completing a full working-day at Humber River Regional Hospital. Intellectually inquisitive until the end, Ralph leaves a void that cannot be filled.

Evelyn Ackrow (1912 – 2012)
by Doug & June (Anderson) Musselwhite

In last year’s newsletter we did a write-up about Miss Sarah Evelyn Ackrow, Weston Collegiate’s oldest living graduate, who was about to celebrate her 100th birthday. A lovely party was held at her home, Weston Gardens, on July 11th, with about 35 guests dropping in. The accompanying picture was taken at that party. As well as being Weston Collegiate’s oldest grad, she was also the only original homeowner on Fern Avenue still alive.



Sadly, Evelyn’s health declined after her birthday and she passed away quietly in her apartment on November 22nd 2012. Evelyn was a great lady and is missed by her many friends and relations.

**Henry “Harry” Skelton, P Eng.,
(1922 – 2013)**

by Barbara (Cruise) Putnam

Harry Skelton passed away peacefully at St. Joseph’s Hospital on March 19, 2013. He is survived by his wife **Joyce** and brother **David**.

Upon graduation from Weston Collegiate in 1941, Harry received The Carter Scholarship from York County and a University of Toronto scholarship to study English at Victoria College. However, his studies were interrupted to serve in the Canadian Air Force. He trained in New Brunswick and, ironically, received his wings in 1945 - the day that World War II ended. Harry next enrolled in Electrical Engineering at the U of T’s Ajax campus and during the summer months, worked for Ontario Hydro. Upon graduation in 1949, he was offered a full time position with Ontario Hydro, one which he held until his retirement in 1987. Many of the Hydro towers scattered throughout Ontario today are a tribute to Harry’s engineering skills.

Harry continued to fly for many years and then used his engineering skills to build and fly model airplanes until his death. His planes were always enhanced by “Skelton modifications.” He was a respected member of Bramalea Radio Control Flyers Inc. and Derry Flyers Radio Control Airplane Club. Harry was also an avid sailor. He built full scale and model boats and in 1975 was Commander of Toronto Power and Sail Squadron. He was also a member of Scarborough Bluffs Sailing Club.

A man of insatiable curiosity and many skills, Harry was a volunteer for Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) for many years. He began as a reader and then used his technical skills to create textbooks in Braille. For his many years of work at the CNIB, Harry received a prestigious Ontario Volunteers Service Award.

Harry was a longtime member of Central United Church in Weston where he served in many capacities including supervisor during construction of the Church’s Central King Seniors’ Residence.

He was also a world traveller and produced many travel documentaries of his expeditions to places like the Arctic, Antarctic, South Africa and the Galapagos Islands.

Many lives were touched by his kindness, selfless giving, intelligence and great love of learning. WCI should, indeed, be proud of this great alumnus!

Daniel Mariage (1941-2013)

By John & Lois (Gardiner) Scrace and Doug Musselwhite

Danny was born in France on November 6, 1941. He came to Canada with his parents after the war and lived in Weston the rest of his life. He attended Weston Senior Public School and WCVS and graduated from the Ontario College of Art.

As a young man, Danny earned his pilot’s license and enjoyed flying all over North America. He took great pleasure in piloting a float plane to Lake Temagami where he was often a guest of Graeme and Nancy (Darrow) Thompson. He was part owner of a Cessna for several years. Flying was a lifelong passion for him. He also loved sports cars, especially Chevrolet Corvettes, and owned two of them.

Danny was self-employed as a partner in a graphic arts business all his working career. He used his artistic skills to design the miniature golf course at Ontario Place and several waterparks, both on land and on cruise ships.

On September 11, 1965 he married **Therese Desires**, originally from Quebec. They had two children, **Serge** and **Michelle**, and three step-grandchildren.

Danny was a keen poker player and for over forty years was a member of the Stagger Inn Poker Club, made up mostly of Weston grads.

A very talented artist, a deep thinker and a loyal true friend to many, Danny who died at home on March 19, 2013, will be sorely missed.

Eulaline (Campbell) Taylor (1917-2013) By Orlando Martini



Eulaline grew up on Queen's Drive, Weston, where her father was an insurance agent and a Member of the Weston Board of Education. After completing her elementary schooling at Memorial Public School, she enrolled at Weston High & Vocational school (WHVS) in September 1932. She lived for a few years in St.

Thomas, Ontario where she completed the special Commercial program at Arthur Voaden Vocational school and where she met her future husband, Alec Taylor (1920-2008). They married in January 1945 and had 63 happy years together.

Eulaline served as bookkeeper and office manager for a number of companies, including Scotch Floor & Wall Tile, the Ontario government, Campbell Brokerage and Dolly Credit Jewellers before entering the interesting world of real estate. Overcoming what were at that time, significant obstacles, she became, in 1952, the first licensed female real estate agent in Toronto.

Sadly, Eulaline passed away in her 97th year at North York General Hospital on April 7, 2013. She was predeceased by her husband, **Alec Taylor** (who taught at Weston Collegiate & Vocational School (WCVS) from 1952 until 1962), her parents, Donald "D.W." Campbell and Melissa (Potter) Campbell plus siblings, **Marjorie Campbell** (who taught at WHVS and WCVS from 1936-1968), Donald L. Campbell and Bonnabelle G. McIntyre. She is survived and grieved by her daughter, Robin Linda Taylor-Roth, son-in-law, Heinz D. Roth,



step-grandson Heinz D. Roth, step granddaughter Greta (Roth) Gridley and their families plus five nieces and nephews, eleven great-nieces and great-nephews.

Editorial Comment by Orlando Martini. The foregoing tribute is an abridged version of the obituary notice of Eulaline's passing which was written by her daughter, Dr. Robin Taylor-Roth, and published in the Toronto Star in April 2013 (Robin is a 1965 graduate of WCVS).

Sheilah (Semple) Rogers .B.A. (1933 – 2013) by Orlando Martini

Sheilah Semple first set foot in the hallowed halls of Weston Collegiate & Vocational School (WCVS) in September 1947 and quickly took the place by storm, thanks to her multitude of talents and sparkling personality. She was an outstanding student academically, excelled in several sports, was a cheerleader for four of her five years at WCVS and in her Grade 13 graduating year became the first "woman" to be elected President of the School's Student Council. Prior to Sheilah's arrival at WCVS, the Office of Student Council President had always been the domain of a male student.

Highlights of Sheilah's many accomplishments at WCVS are summarized below chronologically. All data were obtained from the School's Year Book, the Conning Tower.

Grade 9, 1947 - 1948

- At the Schools annual Track & Field Day in the spring of 1948 Sheilah was crowned the Ladies Junior Champion. Her Grade 9A class was also winners in softball, volleyball and basketball.

Grade 10, 1948-1949

- Sheilah's first year as a cheerleader
- The Grade 10B Form News reported "On the ice or on the court, Sheilah's tops in any sport"

- At the Schools' annual Track & Field Day in the spring of 1949, Sheilah was again crowned the Ladies Junior Champion.

Grade 11, 1949-1950

- Sheilah's second year as a cheerleader
- The Grade 11B Form News reported "Of all the girls we've ever met, she's one of those we won't forget".

Grade 12, 1950-1951

- Sheilah's third year as a cheerleader
- Served as Chair of the Committee responsible for decorating the School's ancient gymnasium for the Annual Prom called the "At-Home"
- Member of the four-person team that was crowned TDIAA Archery Champions. Other team members were *Mary Jane Knapp*, *Helen LeGard* and *June Vaughan*.

Grade 13, 1951-1952

- Sheilah's fourth year as a cheerleader.
- Elected President of the Student Council, the first woman to attain that position at WCVS.
- Sheilah and *Bob Scott* were the School's Simpson's Collegiate Club Reps during 1951-1952. Simpson's Reps are picked for their athletic ability, popularity and scholastic standing.
- On November 7, 1952 at the School's Annual Commencement, Sheilah received her grade 13 Graduation Diploma plus the Memorial Prize which was awarded for outstanding leadership and personality (shared with *Clarence "Baz" Mackie*) and the Weston Lions Club Scholarship (shared with *Orlando Martini* and *Marcelle Skorupa*)

After graduating from WCVS, Sheilah entered the General Arts program at the U of T's Victoria College where she earned a Bachelor

of Arts (B.A.) Degree. She subsequently taught at the new Downsview Collegiate in North York for one or two years before starting to raise a family – daughter Kelly was born in 1957 and son John in 1960.

The following comments about Sheilah appeared in her obituary notice which was printed in the Toronto Star on May 16, 2013:

"Her drive and innovation were most on display through her lifetime of charity work, notably with Foster Kids, CANSAVE (where her ideas caught the eye of *Princess Anne*), as a founding member of the Easter Seals Sports Celebrity Dinner and recently organizing golf tournaments to Beat Cancer as well as supporting others dealing with "scleroderma."

In February 1982, Sheilah joined the Committee that was formed to organize Weston Collegiate's 125th Anniversary Reunion of October 1982 and served that group with dedication and distinction. Immediately following that Reunion, she became a founding member of the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation and served that organization for three years as its first Vice President. The Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation attained Registered Charity status from the Canada Revenue Agency effective January 1, 1983 and has partnered with the School in organizing all Anniversary Reunion's since that date.

With the passing of Sheilah (Semple) Rogers on May 13, 2013, Weston Collegiate Institute has lost an outstanding, distinguished and devoted alumna.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Marian (Aitchison) Packham C.M., Ph.D. *by Orlando Martini*



The latest Weston Collegiate graduate to receive the Order of Canada is Marian (Aitchison) Packham who received the Award on June 29, 2012. At her investiture in Rideau Hall, Ottawa on September 28, 2012, her citation read:

“For over five decades Marian Packham has been advancing medical research in Canada. A professor at the University of Toronto, she was a highly cited scientist at a time when there were few women in biomedicine. She is known for her contributions to the study of blood platelets, notably for her research on blood clotting, which led to critical breakthroughs in the prevention of strokes and heart attacks. Recently, she has penned books documenting major figures and events in Canadian medical history from an insider’s perspective.”

Dr. Packham is a 1945 graduate of Weston Collegiate & Vocational School (WCVS) who subsequently earned a B.A. in 1949 and a Ph.D in 1954, both from the University of Toronto. In the Alumni Foundation’s 2001 Newsletter we reported the following:

“Dr. Marian (Aitchison) Packham has had a brilliant career as a researcher and teacher at the U. of T. – she is a world authority on the biochemistry and physiology of blood platelets and has also carried out pioneering work on the use of drugs to prevent blood clots. Although she has been technically retired since 1993 Professor Packham maintains an office at the U. of T. and remains close to the research scene. Her current title is “university Professor Emeritus”.

Over the years, Professor Packham has received many honours and awards including:

- 1988: J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine (shared with J.F. Mustard M.D.)
- 1991: Made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada FRS (C)
- 1997: Doctor of Science, honoris causa from Ryerson Polytechnic University.”



University Professor Emeritus, Marian Packham enjoys lunch with Dr. John Wynne

*Pictures are courtesy of the University Of Toronto
Department Of Biochemistry*

M. Vera Peters O.C., M.D.

by Orlando Martini

So far as can be reasonable determined, Mildred Vera Peters (always known as Vera) is the first Weston Collegiate graduate to receive the Order of Canada. She became a Member



*Picture is courtesy
of the Canadian
Medical Association*

of the Order (C.M.) on June 25, 1975 and was elevated to the rank of Officer (O.C.) on July 11, 1977.

During her distinguished career in medical research, particularly in the fields of cancer and Hodgkin's disease treatment, Vera received international recognition and numerous accolades. The latest accolade which has come to our attention was her induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (posthumously) on April 13, 2010 at the BMO Centre in Calgary. Her citation (in part) on that occasion read "Dr. Vera Peters has often been referred to as "the first lady of Oncology...". We are indebted to Dr. Donald Cowan (who is writing a book about Vera), for bringing this accolade to our attention.

DECADE NEWS

The 1930s

By Orlando Martini

At the end of September 2012, **Helen (Eagle) Abrahms** moved out of the King City house that she called home for several decades and is now nicely settled in the Richmond Hill Retirement Centre, a relatively new Seniors' Residence. She is very happy in her new surroundings, citing excellent staff, good meals, etc.

On February 18, 2013, Helen turned 94 and she advises that her hearing and eyesight have deteriorated somewhat but all factors considered, she is enjoying good health and is completely mobile. Helen has a daughter in London, Ontario, a son in Vancouver and two grandchildren (both in Vancouver).

On June 1, 2013, **Fred Worthington** celebrated two years in his Walkerton, Ontario Seniors' Residence – approximately six weeks before his 95th birthday on July 14, 2013. With the passing of Evelyn Ackrow in the summer of 2012 at the age of 100, it was suggested the he might now be Weston Collegiate's oldest alumnus. On hearing that, Fred quipped, "do I get a prize for that?" After pondering the suggestion, Fred (who has an incredible memory for dates and events), indicated that one of his Holly Avenue neighbors, **Mel Fenwick**, a retired pharmacist was one or two years older than him. Sadly, Mel is in a nursing home suffering from dementia. Fred is enjoying excellent health for his age but requires a walker if he walks any distance. He has a wonderful sense of humour and keeps up to date with current events, the Toronto Blue Jays and Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team. With reference to Senators Mike Duffy and Pamela Wallin he quipped "they are as crooked as a dog's hind leg."

Fred's youngest daughter and her husband (both retired school teachers) sold their 46 acre estate in nearby Paisley and now have a beautiful home nearby in a retirement community near Hanover. Fred has four

grandchildren (oldest is 50) plus ten great grandchildren and more enroute.

The Late Seventies (1975-80)

By Debbie (McLean) Schubert

The 70's were so long ago and yet it was only yesterday. I just realized that 10 years have gone by since my last contribution to the "Weston Times". Once again **Kim Marshall** has twisted my arm to write something on our decade. First off I would like say that it is with great sadness that we bid adieu to a wonderful man, father, husband and friend, **John Rombough** (79). There are many who will miss his wonderful smile, bad jokes, and great singing voice. Rest in Peace John.

Since I last wrote I've experienced many changes in my life. I went from a Recreation Assistant, to a stay-at-home Mom, to a Grade 7 Teacher at CR Marchant. I was lucky enough to be hired by **Dori Mould**, I won't comment on her year of graduation but the 60's were good, who I had something in common with. We are both graduates of CR Marchant and have had the opportunity to teach there too. As I've remained in the neighborhood I've had the pleasure of teaching many of your children. Currently I teach grade 7 homeroom, Phys Ed and Drama. I've realized that it's never too late to learn something new. This year I learned that you should not buy new snowboarding boots BEFORE the season starts. Apparently it can lead to a torn meniscus and a broken foot. It certainly put an end to my snowboarding season with the CHILL program. (The CHILL program works with "students at risk". We take students out of their comfort zone and teach them how to snowboard, with a few life lessons on the side).

All my children attended CR and two of my three children went to WCI. My daughter **Bryce** (06) is a quasi graduate of Waterloo U and is currently pursuing her interests in Architecture in New Zealand, building adobe huts with solar panel roofs. Next up for her I hope is Environmental Architecture. My son

Taylor (09) is in his 3rd year of Apprenticing in Carpentry with Union Local 27. Anyone looking for a reliable and talented young carpenter? My third child **Reed**, is in OUIT Concurrent Education. He wants to teach Physics and Math, like his Dad. Sadly he graduated from Runnymede CI and not Weston CI. Oh yah and my husband **Peter** went from Aerospace Engineering to teaching Math and Science for the Home Instruction Program in the TDSB.

It's amazing how many have stayed in the neighbourhood.

Tim Morrison (83) is the head caretaker at CR. He married his high school sweetheart **Cindy Williamson** (83) and they have two boys Justin (28) and Danny (24).

Carol Latimer (79) and her husband have two handsome boys, Drew and Blair. Drew just graduated from Western and Blair just started at Queens.

Nancy Phillips (79) and **Joe Amodeo** have 4 children, Lyndsay, Sean, Maddison and Cole. With 3 of the 4 children in University they will be working well into their 60's, especially with Sean in Medical School.

Sheila Gordon (80) and **Paul Kendal** (77) have two daughters Blake (2nd year Health Studies-York U) and Connor (enrolled in BioMed-Ottawa) and still live in Weston. Sheila works for LV Lomas, a Chemical Distribution company. She is Director of HR and is on the company's Board of Directors. Paul is still a first class carpenter doing Custom Homes Renovations. You may have seen some of his work here in Weston. Sadly Sheila, David, Carol and Gail lost their mother last year so the Gordon house has been sold. Carol (79) and Gail (77) now live in the greater Toronto Area.

Stephanie Brown (77) and her brother **Forbes** (82) still live in Weston with a herd of dogs. Stephanie is a Veterinary Assistant and Forbes is still creating military uniforms for reenactments.

I'm approaching the empty nest syndrome as I'm sure many of you are. In fact a few of you

are probably already grandparents. I know that **Janet Brown** (75) and her high school sweetheart, **Craig Turner**, are grandparents of a beautiful little boy and still living in Amherstview.

Anyone who is a swimmer will remember those **Funnell** boys, **Larry** (75), **Dave** (77) and **Doug** (80). I still see all the guys and their wives. Larry's wife **Carmelina Cappabianco** (75) looks exactly the same as she did in high school. How does she do that? Larry works for a manufacturing company in Mississauga. Their two children have graduated from University and are out on their own. Dave is "alive and well and living in Peru", or so he claims. He lives in Windsor with his wife Mae and works for Autoliv. He's hoping to retire in his early 60's and live in his cottage on Greys Bay, Orillia. Doug and his wife Karen have two children, Matthew and Joanne. Doug works for SEALED AIR and Karen still works for the Region of Peel.

Paul West (79) and **Karen Schmidt** (80) married after high school and are now living in Georgetown, with their three children Mark, Emily and Tom, after years in Chicago. He is a Director at ACCO and Karen is working for H&R Block.

On a happy note **Lisa Simmons** (79) just recently married her high school sweetheart (**Henry**) **Bob Meuller** (76). Apparently they met up again at a school reunion. Lisa lives in Ottawa where she works for WSIB and Bob, having left Ontario Housing Corp to move to Ottawa, is now a General Contractor. Lisa's three children, Grant, Craig and Victoria, are quite pleased with their new step-father.

(Henry) Bob is still friends with **Andy Pane** (76), who works for De Havilland, and his wife **Cindy Neitzel** (79). Cindy works for Bell Canada and has since graduation. They have two sons.

While at Liza and Bob's Wedding I ran into **Brenda Cammaccio** (79), **Jill Ashdown** (79) and **Debbie Wilson** (78). Jill lives in the Kingston area and Brenda and Debbie are still in the Weston area.

I was going to mention the **Armstrong** family, **Brian, Linda, Elaine, Paul** and **Mark** but they fall into both the 60's and 70's categories. So I'll leave it up to the other generation. I can say that they are alive and well and thriving.

More on the Seventies

By Jane (MacMillan) Ross

Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation Treasurer **Jane (MacMillan) Ross** (1976) met her husband **Sandy Ross** (1975) in Grade 10 homeroom. They have been married 31 years and have two children, **Evan** and **Lesley**.

Lesley is a WCI grad (2007), has a BA Honours degree from Carleton University, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Relations from Humber College. Lesley is also a member of the WCAF Executive.

Jane and Sandy stayed in Weston and have remained active in the community as members of the Weston Lions Club. Both have served as Lions Club President and are Melvin Jones Fellows, the Lions Club International organization's highest honour. Fellow current Weston Lions include WCI alumni **Howard Stonehouse, Tom Bunda, Barbara (Zidner) Leek and Howard Ashbourne**, husband of grad **Mary Louise (Caskey) Ashbourne**. The Weston Lions Club currently sponsors five student awards at WCI's annual Commencement ceremony.

The Lions Club operates Weston Lions Arena and Sandy has been the volunteer Chair of the rink for many years. Sandy and Jane can regularly be found volunteering behind the Snack Bar counter, serving those famous Arena fries. Sandy coaches hockey with Weston Minor Hockey League with daughter Lesley. In March, 2013 he was nominated for his volunteer efforts in Kraft Canada's Hockey Goes On program. Sandy achieved national

top 20 status in the contest, but more importantly, he and Lesley coached their team to the Atom house league season championship.

The Weston Lions would like to thank Weston Collegiate for the volunteer efforts of many of their students and grads over the years with our Weston Lions Arena Snack Bar, and the Toronto Blue Jays giveaway team. These are major fundraising activities for the Lions Club and WCI students have played an important part in our success.

The Ross family maintains close ties with WCI friends, **Susan (Everson) (1975)** and **Miles St. Pierre (1975)** and Frances (Campbell) Evans. Married 32 years, the St. Pierres live in Perth, Ontario and are parents of adult sons, Brendan and Eric. Susan's brother **Paul Everson (1977)** is married to Debbie and lives in Oshawa. Sister **Joanne (Everson) Wheeler (1978)** is married to Kevin, and they reside in the Ottawa Valley, close to their children and grandchildren. **Lynn (Everson) Zardo (1980)** is married to Chris. They also live in Perth with their daughters, Leah and Hilary. Franki (Campbell) Evans resides in Milton and has two sons, Drew and Brian, and a most adorable granddaughter, Danya. She regularly travels with her twin, Francine.

Jane's brother, **Kevin MacMillan (1978)** lives in Kitchener. He is father to Christopher and Samantha and proud grandpa to 6 year old Ewan. Sandy's sisters, **Andrea (Ross) Meadowcroft** (deceased) and **Heather (Ross) Nugent** were also Weston grads. Heather now resides in Edson, northwest of Edmonton Alberta with husband Chuck Nugent.

THE GREY CUP COMES TO WCI

By Orlando Martini



Kimoni Dixon (Student) Andre Durie (Argo Running Back)

On January 8, 2013, the Grey Cup was brought to Weston Collegiate by **Jason Colero** of the Argos Public Relations Department; and **Andre Durie**, the running back who helped the Argos defeat the Calgary Stampeders on November 25, 2012 in the 100th Grey Cup Final. Over 100 students and staff, including last year's Weston Ironmen football team, were on hand to greet Messrs. Colero and Durie and a most enjoyable afternoon ensued. A few photos of the event provided by Snap Magazine are shown here.

In bringing the grey Cup to WCI, the Toronto Argonaut Football Club (Argos) was keeping a promise that its representatives had made to



L. to R. Ali Mohamed (Student); Andre Durie (Argo Running Back); Deborah Blair (WCI Principal); Orlando Martini (WCVS Grad 1952)

the School some eight months earlier when they participated in one of WCI's anti-bullying campaigns. It is also pertinent to mention that the Argos have participated with WCI staff and students in anti-bullying campaigns for nearly three years.

The Argos involvement in anti-bullying began soon after Principal **Deborah Blair** introduced "Restorative Practices" to Weston Collegiate in 2010. In the High School environment, Restorative Practices may be loosely defined as "a procedure for resolving disputes between students without resorting to suspensions and/or detentions." Restorative Practices has been well-explained in the attached Toronto Star article dated April 24, 2012 by **Catherine Porter**.



L. to R. Bryce James (Student); Deborah Blair (WCI Principal); Gabi Rohit (Student)



L. to R. Shannen Lambert (Student); Cardine Pedley (Student); Deborah Blair (WCI Principal); Monique Twigg (WCI Teacher); Shelby Philip (Student); Kerisa Samuel (Student); Andre Durie (Argo Running Back)

Photos courtesy of Snap Newspaper Group

How a Toronto high school fights bullying without bullying — using restorative talking, not discipline and suspensions

By: Catherine Porter Columnist, Published in *Toronto Star* on Mon April 24, 2012

Since Toronto's *Weston Collegiate* introduced restorative circles, the school's suspension rate has dropped by more than half and students say they feel safer.

A restorative conference with two high school boys, their mothers, meeting facilitators and Principal Deborah Blair takes place at Weston Collegiate Institute in Toronto. The Restorative Practices initiative is an anti-bullying technique. The two boys were involved disagreement that escalated to a physical level.

A week ago, two friends at Weston Collegiate Institute had an argument.

One was a slip of a boy in Grade 9, his plaid shirt buttoned right to the Adam's apple. The other was an 18-year-old giant — literally 6-foot-8 — with ear buds and a hoodie.

You know who won.

A few days later, the two sat in the school's salmon-coloured "Focus on Success" centre (called the detention room in my day) in a small circle of blue chairs with their moms, the school principal and two student facilitators. They'd come to make amends.

"I told him to stop the joke. I didn't like it. I'm a big gentleman," said the giant. "I was immature. My first policy is no violence."

Then it was the slip's turn. "I thought he knew I was just joking around," he told the group. "He is my friend."

His mother then spoke about the impact of the fight in her home. She looked the giant in the eye: "I expect you as a senior to protect my son. You could have really hurt him."

The giant's mother spoke next and the room got even smaller: "I am ashamed to be here."

This is a "restorative conference," Weston's alternative to old-school discipline. Instead of suspending students for fighting or bullying, Weston offers them a face-to-face meeting with their victim to discuss the incident and its reverberations, and finally, to draft the penance together. They each get to bring along one supporter.

The results have been stunning: Four years ago, before "Weston Restores" was created, fights broke out most days at the school, near Lawrence Ave. W. and Jane St. This year, there have been four.

The river of students flowing to the principal's office for behavioural issues has slowed to a trickle and the suspension rate, once among the worst in the city, has been cut by more than half.

Students say the school feels safer and their relationships with teachers have improved. The administration says the program has worked so well they rarely need to host these conferences.

"The language and the tone of the school have changed. We've changed how we speak and relate to one another," says principal Deborah Blair. "The key message is treat everyone with dignity and respect."

Restorative practices, first seen in our justice system, can be found in many Ontario schools. Weston Collegiate is considered the grandmother of the program — in scope and years — in Toronto. Blair sent staff and student volunteers to be trained as formal facilitators with the non-profit International Institute for Restorative Practices three years ago because of the "non-stop bullying, especially among girls" at the school.

Since then, the students have taken charge — putting up posters, leading assemblies on how restorative conferences work, and setting up a drop-box for fellow students to submit incident reports. They also lead most of the formal conferences.

The school has also introduced circles in many classes, so students face one another and each gets a chance to be heard.

"It forces you as an adult to stay silent for part of the time and to listen," Blair says.

You can see why it's been so effective. The city of Hull, England, is trying to become a "restorative city," training every citizen under 18 (I'm not holding my breath for Toronto under the current regime).

This focus of this conference seems light compared to some of Weston's past ones — addressing an incident of drunk driving and another of damaging school property. But culture, like bullying, is the accumulation of small moments.

The boys are here to talk about how the giant dropped the slip. But, as their mothers burrow under the event, the motivation is revealed: the slip joined a group making fun of the giant's accent.

"Do you know what it is for someone from another country when you talk, kids laugh at him?" says his mother.

The circle is quiet for a moment. The room feels like it has shrunk to a cubicle, it's so intimate. The giant looks down at the floor, so does his victim.

"There's nothing to be ashamed about. It's a learning experience for both of them and for us as parents," says the freshman's mother. "We'd still be here — that's abuse to your son too."

The last question posed by facilitators, usually, is: "What do you think we should do to make things right?" Usually, the repercussions are tough because we are always hardest on ourselves. At Weston, no one has ever broken their word, Blair says.

The boys' mothers broker their agreement. They will have one another's backs. They will report any bullying to the office.

"It doesn't matter if you are big or small, nobody should be bullied," the freshman's mother says.

As in any good truce, refreshments are served afterwards. The mothers pick at a plate of Tim Hortons muffins and cookies. The two boys, rushing to a sporting event, grab bottles of juice.

"Let's take two," the giant says to the slip. Then, they leave together.

All is good at Weston Collegiate. All schools should follow suit.

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Since publication of the last alumni Newsletter in June 2012, the Weston Collegiate Alumni Foundation has been informed of the passing of the alumnae/alumni/staff listed below. Heartfelt condolences are extended to the families and friends of the deceased. Please let us know if we have missed anyone.

Era	Name	Residence	Date
40s/50s	Don White	Goderich, Ont.	Feb 14/12
30s	Dora (Mackie) Brown	Brampton, Ont	June 29/12
40s	Elizabeth (Duthie) Martin	Cobourg, Ont.	July 16/12
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n/a	Norma (MacLennan) Stenhouse	Weston, Ont.	Aug 9/12
50s/60s	Grant J. Peterson	Weston, Ont.	Aug 22/12
40s	Al Meech	Orangeville, Ont.	Sept 8/12
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40s/50s	James “Jim” Ramage	Orangeville, Ont.	Sept 24/12
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40s	Isobel (Hales) Bridgeman	Barrie, Ont.	Nov 3/12
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30s	William “Bill” Calhoun	Weston, Ont	Nov 20/12
20s/30s	Evelyn Ackrow	Weston, Ont.	Nov 22/12
40s	Harold Ritchie	Alliston, Ont.	Nov 23/12
40s	Harold Penny	Lindsay, Ont.	Dec 17/12
Staff 1955-1967	Henrietta Bielby	Toronto, Ont.	Dec 24/12
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30s	Audrey (Livings) Hulf	London, Ont.	Jan 29/13
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